Bard College

Annandale-On-Hudson, NY • Private School

College Free Speech RANKINGS

The most comprehensive guide to free speech on campus — anywhere

Because a true university education requires freedom of expression.

The College Free Speech Rankings are based on student surveys, campus policies, and recent speech-related controversies.

OVERALL RANK
191
/261
▼ -32 FROM 2025

GRADE
F
F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES
0
0 FROM 2026

Overview

Bard College ranks 191 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 57 and an F speech climate grade, dropping 32 places from last year.

Bard ranks first nationally for "Openness," meaning fewer contentious topics feel off-limits to students. It lands in the bottom 25 for "Political Tolerance," indicating low student willingness to host controversial speakers. Its "Disruptive Conduct" rank jumped 122 places from last year, showing lower student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest.

Bard has a "red light" Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating and adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement and institutional neutrality. Bard should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded.

Spotlight Rating
Red



FIRE's Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

View the Full Spotlight Rating

If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to speechcodes@fire.org.

Visit our website, rankings.fire.org, for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS



37% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.



68% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.



30% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

35.5 : 1

There are roughly 35.5 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality



NOT ADOPTED

Chicago Statement for Free Speech



NOT ADOPTED

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

C

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

C+

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

B

▲ INCREASE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D+

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

D

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

— NO CHANGE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

0

DEPLATFORMINGS

0